

Amendments to the Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A turbine housing assembly for an exhaust-gas-driven turbocharger, comprising:

a sector-divided turbine housing defining a generally annular chamber structured and arranged to surround a turbine wheel, a plurality of circumferentially spaced dividing walls extending generally radially inwardly from a radially outer wall of the chamber and dividing the chamber into a plurality of separate angular sectors each of which occupies a fractional part of a circumference of the chamber, each sector of the chamber at a radially inward side thereof having an axial length;

a vane assembly for guiding flow from the chamber into the turbine wheel, the vane assembly comprising a ring of circumferentially spaced vanes that include dividing vanes and additional vanes mounted on a fixed structure of the turbine housing assembly, the dividing vanes corresponding in number to the number of dividing walls, each dividing vane forming an extension of one of the dividing walls and extending generally radially inwardly from the dividing wall and terminating at a trailing edge of the dividing vane, the additional vanes being located circumferentially between the dividing vanes; and

a variable-geometry mechanism comprising a tubular piston disposed radially inward of the chamber and axially slidable relative to the chamber between a fully open position and a closed position in which a fractional portion of the axial length of the sectors is blocked by the piston, the piston having a radially outer surface and a radially inner surface defining a radial thickness of the piston therebetween, wherein the piston and the vanes overlap radially and at least the dividing vanes are received in axially extending slots in the piston when the piston is in the closed position, wherein the slots extend radially inwardly from the radially outer surface of the piston for a radial distance less than the radial thickness of the piston, such that the slots do not go all the way through to the radially inner surface of the piston;

wherein the dividing vanes extend fully across the axial length of the sectors so that the sector-division of the turbine housing is preserved when the piston is in the fully open position, and the additional vanes extend along less than the axial length of the sectors and are axially located such that when the piston is in the closed position a portion of the sectors remains open

and the additional vanes extend fully across said portion, and when the piston is in the fully open position there is a space between ends of the additional vanes and an end of the piston.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The turbine housing assembly of claim 15, wherein the additional vanes and piston are arranged such that in the closed position of the piston, an end of the piston abuts ends of the additional vanes.

18. (Previously Presented) The turbine housing assembly of claim 15, wherein the dividing vanes and additional vanes are mounted on a ring-shaped member separate from the turbine housing.

19. (Currently Amended) A turbine for an exhaust-gas-driven turbocharger, comprising:  
a turbine wheel;

a sector-divided turbine housing defining a generally annular chamber structured and arranged to surround the turbine wheel, a plurality of circumferentially spaced dividing walls extending generally radially inwardly from a radially outer wall of the chamber and dividing the chamber into a plurality of separate angular sectors each of which occupies a fractional part of a circumference of the chamber, each sector of the chamber at a radially inward side thereof having an axial length;

a vane assembly for guiding flow from the chamber into the turbine wheel, the vane assembly comprising a ring of circumferentially spaced vanes that include dividing vanes and additional vanes mounted on a fixed structure of the turbine housing assembly, the dividing vanes corresponding in number to the number of dividing walls, each dividing vane forming an extension of one of the dividing walls and extending generally radially inwardly from the dividing wall and terminating at a trailing edge of the dividing vane, the additional vanes being located circumferentially between the dividing vanes; and

a variable-geometry mechanism comprising a tubular piston disposed radially inward of the chamber and axially slidable relative to the chamber between a fully open position and a closed position in which a fractional portion of the axial length of the sectors is blocked by the piston, the piston having a radially outer surface and a radially inner surface defining a radial thickness of the piston therebetween, wherein the piston and the vanes overlap radially and at

least the dividing vanes are received in axially extending slots in the piston when the piston is in the closed position, wherein the slots extend radially inwardly from the radially outer surface of the piston for a radial distance less than the radial thickness of the piston, such that the slots do not go all the way through to the radially inner surface of the piston;

wherein the dividing vanes extend fully across the axial length of the sectors so that the sector-division of the turbine housing is preserved when the piston is in the fully open position, and the additional vanes extend along less than the axial length of the sectors and are axially located such that when the piston is in the closed position a portion of the sectors remains open and the additional vanes extend fully across said portion, and when the piston is in the fully open position there is a space between ends of the additional vanes and an end of the piston.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The turbine of claim 19, wherein the additional vanes and piston are arranged such that in the closed position of the piston, an end of the piston abuts ends of the additional vanes.

22. (Previously Presented) The turbine of claim 19, wherein the dividing vanes and additional vanes are mounted on a ring-shaped member separate from the turbine housing.

23-26. (Canceled)